

F R E E R A D I O

Supporter

Pop. poll shows:

1 9 7 5 's t o p s t a t i o n



radio **Valentine**
i n t e r n a t i o n a l

No. 1

March 1976

the no. one

PIRATE STATION DURING 1975

radio Valentine 49m.



History

Radio Valentine is a free station operating from Western Germany. It started broadcasting as a "one-man-station" with irregular intervals and 10 watts of power on 1178 kHz in December 1973. Programme quality was poor and without variation until September 1974 when two disco-DJ's Hardy and Wolfgang Brandes joined the gang. The frequency was changed to 227 metres and a regular monthly service with a more professional format was introduced. But still response failed to appear. Until December 1st, 1974 the transmitter was rebuilt in order to get a power output of 30 watts and a further frequency change to 1196 khz was made. Also our mailing adress in Offenburg was used for the first time.

From that day on success grew because many listeners of Radio Mi Amigo within reach of Radio Valentine tuned over to our station.

Soon we realised, that it would be too risky to broadcast from a fixed position every time with all the large and expensive studio equipment being at the same place. So we decided to start mobile transmissions from off a car from February 1975.

In March a second transmitter for shortwave-operation became ready for use and it was planned to run both transmitters simultaneously. But after a short test was made, it became obvious that the mobile power supply would be too weak for providing two transmitters with power. So a decision had to be made whether to stay on mediumwave or to join the shortwave.

Firstly we started a series of testtransmissions on shortwave under a different name:

"All Star Radio", just in order to find out how response would be.

After the second test on May 25th. on 6.230 khz we found that the transmitter could reach large parts of Europe up to a distance of 1000 km.

On June 1st. Radio Valentine eventually changed over from 1196 khz ("259") to 6225 khz.

And there we are.

Our whole crew is consisting of 5 people who are all appearing with their shows on Valentine's programmes. Our goal is to try bringing back a bit of the atmosphere of offshore radio to your radio.....

technical details

mediumwave:

transmitter: home-built, 4 valves

power: 30 watts

antenna (stationary): 65m length, 10m above gr.

mobile: depending from conditions, usually

Marconi-aerial or T-aerial (both 50m long)

reception radius: 55 km

shortwave:

transmitter: ARC-5/BC-457, rebuilt, 4 valves

power: presently 50 watts

antenna: (stationary) longwire,
(65m, same as used for M.W.-transmissions)

mobile: dipole, 21m length

reception radius: depending from conditions,
about 1600 km.

studios & equipment

3 separate studios equipped with Lenco-turntables, tape-recorders made by Uher and Grundig, Spotmaster, echo-reverberation-set and dynamic-compressor.

All equipment is self-operated by the DJ's. All transmitted programmes are prerecorded.

format

mainly pop music with "progressive touch",
Top Ten-records,
Oldies,
DX-information,
record requests
and Jingles

Since October 1975, Radio Valentine has been using a 24 metre long halfwave dipole exclusively. The maximum reception radius has been 1600 km, and every month about 50-150 letters arrives. Totally the amount of letters received is now about 700-800. These have arrived from: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, East, & West Germany, Holland, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Channel Islands and even from Panama (however, these reception reports are not believed to be correct, though!).

Programme schedule: all times given in C.E.T.

11.00-12.00 the Johnnie o'Brian show (English)
 12.00-12.45 Hardy's Mailbox (English)
 12.45-13.30 Paul Hunter with DX-news (German)
 13.30-14.15 the Wolfgang Brandes Music Machine (German)
 14.15-15.00 Hardy's Top Ten
 15.00-15.30 Sally (French)

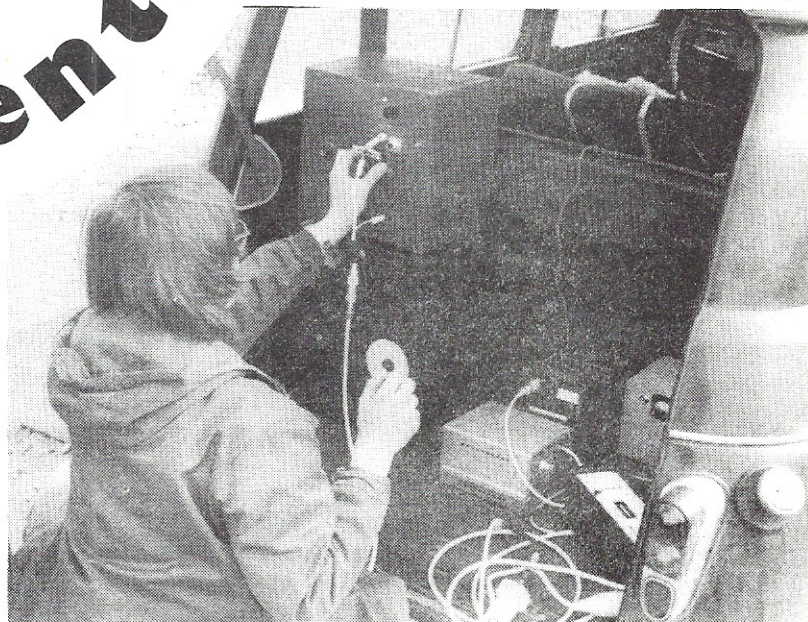
Nico Haag has now left the station.

Due to an act of vengeance from a person not mentioning here, Radio Valentine is unable to reply to a large part of letters received in Dec. 75 & Jan. 76, because the letters are missing!



Broadcasting mobile, a converter changes the 12 volts from the car battery to 240 volts/50 Hz. The engine has to keep running all through the transmissions.

Belonging to the transmitting equipment there are also a case of beer, and one or two bottles of whisky.





'poseidon' comments your rec. reports

There are always a lot of people who complain of the bad quality of some of the pirate station's answers. As we on 'Poseidon' do receive a lot of reception reports we can see that also the reports are very often of a bad quality! And if they're not of a bad quality, there's very often no personal comments or any suggestions or anything like that. If you just send the station a short reception report where you only fill in the necessary details for a QSL card, it is not possible for you to receive a personal or nice answer!

Also you must consider that for most stations it's far to expensive to print good-looking QSL cards.

We would think that you can count on getting an answer of about the same quality as your reception report.

We can of course only talk about our own experiensies, but we would think this is the opinion of many independent radio stations.

DC Mains

(sign.)



How to construct a 30 WATT NOVICE TRANSMITTER FOR 48 METRES.

Part 4 - THE ANTENNA.

There is no doubt that the most important part of the transmitting equipment is - yes - the antenna. A good antenna is far more important than a lot of power.

The antenna described here is a halfwave dipole which is the most favoured form of antenna for use on 48 metres. The total length of the antenna should be 24 metres = a $\frac{1}{2}$ wave.

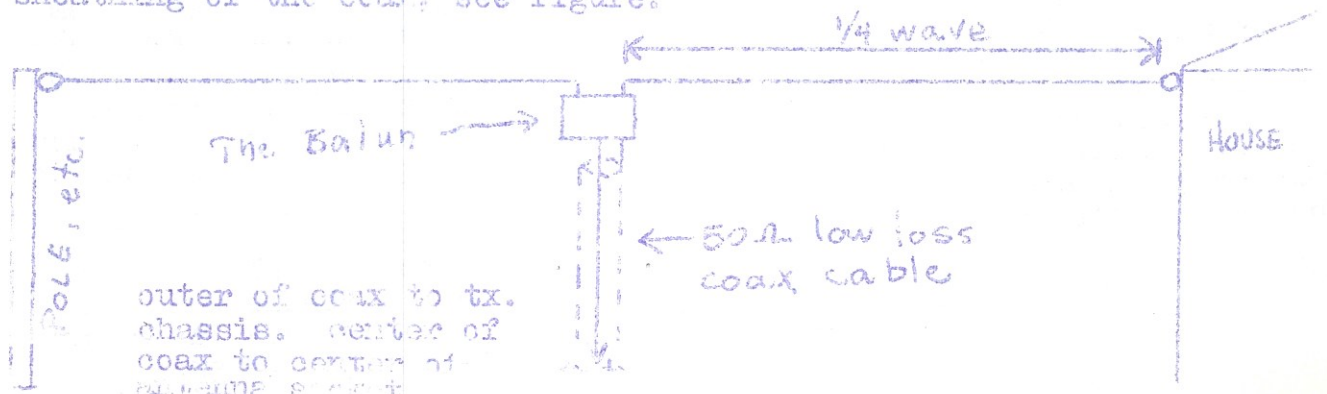
The absolutely ideal height above ground which this antenna should be erected is a halfwave, but as this is usually impractical, a minimum of 8 metres should be sufficient. The best type of antenna wire to use is single strand plastic covered silver covered copper wire, but as this is pretty scarce, normal plastic covered copper wire is good enough. The only reason for mentioning silver over copper, is that it is a better conductor, and therefore your power losses will be lower.

As for the type of coax (the down lead), television coax cable is not really very good because its impedance is not very constant at all frequencies, so it's better to visit your local amateur or citizens band radio shop and pay just a little extra for good quality, low loss, 50 or 52 ohm transmitting coax cable.

A piece of apparatus that is very much useful and most essential to any operator who wishes to get the best from his transmitter, is an SWR and power meter. These can be purchased reasonably cheaply, and they soon pay for themselves. They enable an operator to tune up his transmitter far more accurately than a normal anode current meter, & it also gives one an indication of his radiated power (that power which is actually being radiated by the antenna) and his reflected power (that power which is being reflected back down the antenna due to mismatches between coax feeder and antenna). A single meter version can be seen on the top of the Radio Poseidon transmitter in the November 1975 issue of 'Supporter'.

Further additions to the antenna system is the 'Balun Transformers'. This is a small transformer which one can also buy at amateur radio shops. Its function is to improve the transfer of energy to the antenna by eliminating stray RF from the coax feeder. When a dipole is fed directly from a coaxial line, there is an unbalanced condition, due to currents flowing down the outer of the coax. These currents radiate and thus effect the radiation pattern, and in addition they cause TV interference and drain away effective power.

There are four connections on the balun, they are always marked, two to the antenna and the other two to the coax, one to the inner and the other to the outer of the coax. The section of the antenna which is nearest the transmitter building should be connected to the outer sheathing of the coax. see figure.



Britains Better Music Station made their last broadcast on 11th January 1976. They will now be off the air for a few months, due to a variety of reasons e.g. trouble with their location, etc. However, they should return in about June this year.

Radio Free Midlands is a new Medium Wave station broadcasting from Central England. It broadcasts from 2330 GMT on Saturday nights onwards, with a programme of an hour or 90 minutes duration. Frequency: 1322 kHz (227 m). power: 40 watts.

Radio Wessex-International is another English pirate station. It is operated by a group of school students, and it broadcasts on Sundays at 1100-1200 GMT on 6265 kHz, with a power of 10 or 50 watts. Letters may be sent to this address: Radio Wessex-International, c/o "Elmhurst", Bath Road, Marlborough, Wiltshire, England. Reports are verified by QSL card and letter. The station has an unusual programme format - as well as some music, they have free radio news and information, news about gigs and concerts around the country, political comments and revolutionary Marxist talks! "Radio Wessex-International stands for the emerging alternative society", according to the station operator (good grief!).

A new United Radio Europe has been heard in German, on Sundays, between 0900 and 1000 GMT, on 6255 kHz (which is the old URE's frequency). It started with 20 watts power, this has now been increased to 35w.

On Nov. 23., Radio Channel 292 was heard on 6225 kHz with the Conny Ferrin Show. The station seemed to be very professional. Addr.: IBA.

Due to GPO activities, Ocean Gate Radio has closed down forever.

One of the DJ's on former Radio Mardango (which now has been closed down) has reopened Radio Saturn, which was last on the air in September 1973. Radio Saturn now broadcasts on 6255 kHz, from 1000 until 1100 hrs. GMT. Its power is 30 watts, and tests have also been carried out on MW.

On 22. February The Sound Of Sweden was on the air on 6240 kHz via one of the station's relay bases. Reception was fairly good in northern Europe.

Radio Valentine reports that they are unable to reply to a large part of letters received in Dec. 75 & Jan. 76 because the station operators have not got them, and presumably will never get them! So everybody who wrote to the station during that period is asked to write in again, and they don't require any return postage for this occasion.

And now for a very strange station, Radio Revelation. This was heard only once, on Sunday 5th October 1975 at 1040-1110 GMT on 6210 kHz. The entire programme consisted of a crazy "interview" with an eminent psychiatrist known as Doctor Shrink, and his patient, Mr. Labbage(!). Several times the station gave a mailing address of "15, Traverse de Pla, 6600 Perpignan, France". However, all letters which were sent to this address were returned opened and stamped in French "No such address...Return to sender". Everything about this station was crazy: the programme it broadcast, the false address which it announced. Also this mysterious broadcast was received with excellent signals all over Europe and was of perfect technical quality. Radio Revelation was, although a number of people seem to believe so, not operated by the GPO. The station was operated by some guys in a part of West Germany, which until the early 50's belonged to France.

THE SWEDISH REPORT

by Capt. J. J. J.

The conditions have been up and down in January and in the beginning of February, too. One Sunday lots of stations, and the next Sunday only the most powerful ones, or none at all.

January 18.:

Radio Westside broadcasting from Dublin in Ireland (for Heaven's sake don't write Britain to them, they get really mad). They were heard on 6210 kHz at 1100 hrs GMT broadcasting one of the Doctor Don-Shows. In a letter he told me they would increase their power and judging from the audibility that has been done. Their strength was absolutely marvellous. Address: 90 Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Eire.

Radio Saturnus - the voice of the stars, was logged at 1110 hrs. GMT on 6230 kHz. Also their strength was better than usual. Addr.: FRL.

Tower Radio - the sound of international broadcasting, was one of the stations from the "good old days" returning this month. They were first logged on 6233 kHz at 0940 hrs. GMT with a very poor signal.

Then at 1155 hrs. GMT they got on the air on 6260 kHz. This time with a much better signal. Then a new address could also be heard: 57 Birchbrade, Mildenhall, Suffolk, U.K. Wellcome back!

Radio Spotnic was the new station this Sunday. They were heard on the old ABC-frequency 6250. Anyway ABC themselves announced this frequency. The time was 1030 hrs. GMT. The programme was a test in English and German. On the QSL card later received, they say the antenna they used was an 8 metres I-one. Surprisingly the strength was as good as it really was. Address: IBA.

January 25.:

Time Radio was the other "oldie" returning this month. The programme was just as nice and professional as before. The frequency they used was 6230 kHz, although they announced 6240. The signal was surprisingly good as the conditions this Sunday were miserable. The address announced was the old one: PO Box 2061, Eindhoven, Holland.

February 1.:

Radio Valentine - the voice of Free Radio, as usual when it's first Sunday of the month. They were this time heard on 6233 kHz(?), though they said 6225 themselves. The programmes start at 1000 hrs. GMT. This Sunday they seemed to have some technical problems the first hour as the strength was much worse than usual. At 1100 hrs. they seemed to have fixed it again as the strength was just as normally.

Radio Prito was back again after a rather long break in the transmissions. The frequency they used was 6225 kHz and the time 1020 hrs GMT. Unfortunately the signal was much weaker this time than last time I heard them. Rumours say the transmitters are different ones. Let's hope they can make the signal better as they are a nice and professional station. Address: FRL.

Radio Germany was one of the new stations testing this day. They were heard on 6241 kHz at 1050 hrs. GMT. Of course and unfortunately with interference from the U-beacon on 6245 kHz. The programme was mainly in English and the address announced was to IBA in Rheine.

A station which hasn't been received in Sweden lately is Radio Zodiac International. They tell me in a letter that on the latest three transmissions reception reports have arrived from the British Isles and Western Germany only. But though they've only 17 watts they are audible in Sweden. The frequencies in use for the moment is 6220, -25, -35, -75. If you succeed in tuning them in, they have also got a new mailing address: 49 West Way, Lancing, Sussex, Great Britain.

INTERESTING FACTS (?) ABOUT RECEPTION REPORTS FROM LISTENERS TO ECR IN 1974-1975.

During the last two years in the air Eastcoast Radio has received quite a number of reception reports from its listeners all over Europe. Here you have some figures from these reports that might interest many readers of this magazine.

From June 1974 to Dec. 1975 our station received 285 reception reports from 214 listeners in 7 countries. The distribution of listeners and a figure of reports from each country is written below - and it is our hope that you will read everything with easyness and deliberation to what they have to say....

COUNTRY	LISTENERS	REPORTS	REP./LISTENER	LIST. WITH MORE THAN ONE REPORT
SWEDEN	120	150	1.25	10-13
NORWAY	14	16	1.14	7
DENMARK	3	7	2.33	67
FINLAND	52	73	1.40	10
GER.FED.REP.	15	20	1.33	34
GER.DEM.REP.	9	18	2.00	40
HOLLAND	1	1	1.00	-

And now...what can we see from these figures in general? Well first of all we can of course note to that fact that our Scandinavian audience is all donating, which is easy to explain. ECR broadcast from a place in middle Sweden mostly in Scandinavian languages. Anyway it is anyway remarkable that our station receive more reports from Germany than from Denmark or Norway. On the other hand our listeners in Denmark send us more reports than those in Norway or Sweden, when considering number of report per listener. Although we have got reports from 120 listeners in Sweden 90 (87) % of those listeners (104) have only managed to drop us a line once since we began broadcasting in 1974. The same goes for our Norwegian listeners too. It is also nice to look at the figures from Germany, which indicate a higher degree of listeners reports from a rather thin amount of listeners. Maybe these figures also indicate the listeners "mind" and their struggle to get a QSL for the QSL-cup only in contrast to the amount of real "listening interest" ???!!!

for ecr-crow/Anders H. Bergstedt

XX

If your DX-club is interested to get some message "over the air" - our station always is glad to help you. Just drop us a line or forward a tape (9" on/s) or a cassette with a recorded message or similar contents to be broadcasted over the air from any of our transmitters in the 43 meter shortwave band. And if you are interested to become a DJ of ECR/ECR - please let us have your reply via PRL in Norway. We do also look for a DX-editor with some experiences in shortwave-radio of today, to help us with the DX-corner each broadcast event.

FIGHT FOR FREE RADIO + MAKE FREE RADIO EVEN BETTER + JOIN TODAY ???!

Harcus & Harby Mulligan/ECR

=====48-----6230-----ECR-----35W=====

ECR NIGHTSERVICE on 60 meterband: From a new transmitter ECR will began a nightservice in English from a new QTH somewhere in Sweden. Time to check is GMT 23.00-01.00 nights between Saturdays and Sundays. Frequency used night be: 4870 kHz (or: 4750, 4690 or 4670 tests). Each broadcast will start on the hour and last for 15-30 minutes. Reception reports are most welcome via PRL, Norway. These night services might not be on every week-end, but it is a good idea to check the above channels regularly !!

LETTERS

"Hello there! Many thanks for the mag. It was not bad, but I somehow get the feeling that you may be a bit dissatisfied in it, as it was not quite up to the previous issues standard, to say the least."

750281, Great Britain.

"Today I received the no. 6/75 of the FRS, and I was very surprised that the FRS was going to be very small in December. I thought that this issue would be a bigger one, but I missed some things like QSL corner, QSL of the month etc.

Generally, I would say that the December issue of FRS is one of those which should be forgotten very soon. It is not the usual FRS standard."

740209, West Germany.

Editor's note: These two letters are two ways of expressing the same. The first letter is a nice and fair comment, the second is a rather intolerant one.

The December 1975 issue of 'Supporter' was not a "very small" one. The normal size of the mag. is 6 pages. Besides it's more or less impossible to present a QSL corner when the number of items received is only two!

If an edition of 'Supporter' is of such a standard that it ought to be forgotten, we'll seriously think of stop publishing the magazine!

Radio Gnome

Telepathic Pirate Radio

Thank you for tuning in to our music and laughter.

Transmitting for the Post Office's delicate little ears. He! He!...

225

P.O. Box 49, Aberdeen,
Scotland.



Radio Gnome uses 2kW output on 1325 kHz and an inverted 'V' antenna. It is said to be operated by the Manchester University students, and during the university rag week, they change their name to Radio Rag. The station has been on two years one weekend a month, the week being alternated for the Post Office's benefit. The transmitting location is also changed each month.

POP. POLL RESULTS:

1) RADIO VALENTINE	255 points
2) ABC - Europe	175 - » -
3) East Coast Radio	105 - » -
4) Radio Poseidon (International)	70 points
5) The Sound Of Sweden	65 -"-
6) Radio Gemini	55 -"-
6) King Radio	55 -"-
8) Radio Prito	35 -"-
9) Radio Europe International	15 -"-

The above is a complete list of stations which got more than one vote.

According to the votes received Radio Valentine was voted as last year's top station because of their very professional programme standard, their excellent service for listeners and the excellent reception all over Europe.

This time 47% of the votes came from Scandinavia, 37% from Central Europe, 10% from the British Isles and 6% from Southern Europe.

The winners of our prizes were: Mr. C. Swensson, Karlstad, Sweden, & Mr. A. B. Pedersen, Birkerød, Denmark.



QSL



radio

Date: _____

Time: _____

Frequency: _____

Antenna: _____

Power: _____

QSL of the month

is this time the QSL
card of Apollo Radio



Apollo Radio was on the air for the first time on 22nd February on 6265 kHz.

When you hear them on your receiver, you can of course send them a reception report, and we believe that you will be satisfied with this QSL reply.

QSL CORNER

Radio Amnesty International	i	15 days	-060
Radio Atlantis 6235	c	72-75 days	-164, -104
Radio Black Peter 6202	c,s,i	16-101 days	-164, -104, -219, -526
Radio Black Shadow	c,i,i	55-70 days	-526, -164
East Coast Radio	c	24 days	-060
Fairbanks Music Station 6200	c,i	58 days	-004
Radio Gemini	c,,i	15 days	-526
Radio Gloria International	c	61-95 days	-209
Radio Gnome	c,i	50 days	-526
King Radio	c,i,s,i	16-18 days	-526, -164
Mamba Radio	c	58-101 days	-164, -526, -209
Northsea Sound	c,i,s,i	18-32 days	-526, -164
Ocean Gate Radio	c,i	21 days	-164
Radio Ohio 6220	i	65 days	-104
Radio Poseidon	c,s	29 days	-060
Radio Prito 6227	c,s	227 days	-104
Radio Seemöve	c	19-35 days	-526, -164
Sound Of Sweden	c,i,i,s	32-35 days	-526, -164
Radio Spotnick	c	12 days	-526
Skyport Radio	c,i	15-22 days	-164, -209
Radio Skyline	c,i	11 days	-209
Tiger Radio International	c,i,i	51 days	-164
Time Radio International	c,i,s,i	28-30 days	-526, -164
Radio Titanic International	c,s	21-28 days	164, -104
Radio Thunderbird	c	32 days	-164
Radio Valentine	c,s,i,i	28 days	-060
Radio Vicky North	c,i	6 days	-209
West Coast Radio 6225	c	71-120 days	-219, -060, -526
Westside Radio International	c,i	30 days	-526
Radio Zodiac International	c,i	28 days	-164

c: card i: letter s: sticker i: information

Please remember to list your QSL's alphanumeric, and to state your subscription code no.!

THESE STATIONS DO NOT ANSWER:

The A.S.O.L. Radio Station

Westside Radio

Radio Freedom

Radio City

Radio Galaxy (6220) (not the WRL station!)

(When a pirate station has not answered after six - 6 - months, drop us a line, and we will announce it here.)

Warning: If subscribing to the 'Free Radio News', published by the Free Radio Campaign Germany, you might as well receive nothing!! At least that's what happened when we (FRI) sent our payment back in September last year! After writing three letters asking for an explanation, we finally got an answer saying that we had to pay an extra fee! Although not understanding why, we payed this extra fee in January this year. And still we have not received anything, and that is what we fear also might happen to you. If you are planning to subscribe, please notice this!

FREE RADIO SUPPORTER

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Elsewhere: add 4 IRC's.

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Stations no longer FRL members:

Radio Anabell. The station has closed down (has never been on the air either).

Radio Bee. The station has closed down.

Radio Belinda. " " " " " "

Britain Radio International. The station is inactive.

Radio Clementine (International). The station has closed down.

Swinging Radio Marmelade. " " " " " "

New FRL members:

Radio Reggae, FRL. 6230 kHz, 25 watts.

Radio Dynamite, FRL. 6240 kHz, 15 watts.

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News from Ireland.....

Radio Valleri which returned to the air last October has again been inactive since December 1975.

A medium Wave station in Dublin, Capital Radio, is no longer active. The station was forced off the air in December after a raid involving seven cars of police, GPO and Home Office men. The authorities failed to impound the transmitter, however. Capital Radio had before this been broadcasting for four months, both on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons, on 220 metres. They had gained a large number of listeners, and their most distant report was believed to have been from North Wales, for the Sunday broadcasts.

Westside Radio continues to broadcast every Sunday at 1100-1200 GMT on 6210 kHz. They have increased output to 120 watts (formerly 30w), and are now heard with strong signals in the British Isles. The people running the station are Doctor Don, DJ Debbie (his wife), Prince Terry and Captain Cooke. During the programmes, listeners letters are read, and there are also frequent mentions for other pirate stations, as well as for free radio and DX magazines.

Another station broadcasted from Dublin is Radio Dublin, operated by the same people as Westside Radio is. Radio Dublin broadcasts every Sunday, usually at 1330 - 1530 GMT, on Medium Wave 1187 kHz. Often the station uses two transmitters in parallel, one on MW and one on SW.